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them, which enabled the community to render distinguished service to the State, especially in the direction of educational work, the upliftment of the depressed classes and the creation of a unifying force among the different sections of the people, referred to the meagre representation of the community in the Public Services of the State. He said that, in the higher grades of appointments, they held about one-eighth, and in the subordnate grades only one twenty-fourth of the total number. The Member urged the desirability of entertaining more Christians in the different departments and suggested an enquiry on the subject.

(4) *Disabilities of the Christians.*

(*a*) Exclusion from the Revenue Department.

The Member said that the community had been feeling the injustice of, and suffering under, this disability sufficiently long and he suggested that no substantial redress of their grievance in this respect would be possible till the Devaswom Department was completely separated from the other branches of the Administration.

(*b*) Material disabilities of the Christian converts.

The Christian converts were unjustly deprived of their share of their ancestral properties. This was a grievance which would be felt more and more in the future. In British India, Ceylon and Japan, the Government have generously and freely accepted the principle of religious neutrality and put it into practice. The Member prayed for the protection of the rights of a free citizen in this direction.

(*c*) Exclusion from the public satroms.

It was hard that the Christians were excluded from the public satroms established and maintained by the State, out of public funds, in different parts of the country, for the accommodation of travellers. The Member proposed that the difficulties raised on the score of diet might be removed if separate kitchens were provided. In conclusion, the Member advocated that the principle adopted by the Paramount Power in the matter of removing the various disabilities of the different classes of people, should be followed here also.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

74. The desirability o publishing the circuiting programme of the heads of Departments and other officers so as to enable people to meet them.

Mr. C. Mathan Mappillai (Member, Meenachil taluk) said that the heads of departments and other circuiting officers did not intimate to the people their programme and consequently the people were not in a position to meet them and represent their requirements and grievances. It would be useful, the Member added, if the programme of circuits of the

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officers be published in the departmental sheets of the Gazette about a month previously. The necessity of adopting such a course would be evident from the following grounds.

(1) Personal interviews with the officials would be productive of better results than any number of petitions sent by Post or Anchal.

(2) Such interviews with the heads of departments would appreciably reduce the work of the Popular Assembly.

(3) The tone of the Public Service would improve, in that such personal interviews created a wholesome fear in the minds of the subordinate officials.

(4) Reforms could be more easily effected.

Dewan's reply.—I shall ask all heads of departments for a report. Let us see what they say.

75. The slaughter of cows should be stopped.

Mr. Ganapathy Pillai (Member, Trivandrum Trading Classes) dealt with the subject under two aspects, namely (1) the religious and (2) the agricultultural or practical:—and said that, looking into the matter from a religious point of view, the slaughter of the cow, the sacred animal of the Hindus, was opposed to the principles of Hinduism which forbids infliction of injury upon others. With a view to protect the cow from being killed, an association had been formed in Trivandrum and it had already enlisted the sympathy of more than 6,000 persons.

From the point of view of the agriculturist, the preservation of cows was necessary, as cattle were useful for ploughing and for purposes of manure.

The Member pointed out that the steam engine for ploughing, could not replace cattle in these parts, as there were not extensive plots of land to be ploughed at one stretch; and with regard to manure other than that obtained from the cow, it was very costly.

For articles of diet such as milk, butter and ghee, people had to depend upon the cow. The Member therefore prayed for the passing of a law penalizing the slaughter of cows, as has been done in some of the northern States such as Bowmagar.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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